REMARKS

By Official Action dated January 6, 2005, the Examiner is requiring restriction, to one of the following inventions, under 35 U.S.C.§ 121:

- I. Claims 1-4, 7-10 and 13-16, drawn to a product, classified in class 428, subclass 69;
- II. Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 17 and 18, drawn to a process, classified in class 156, subclass 60; and
 - III. Claims 19 and 20, drawn to a product, classified in class 62.

The restriction requirement is respectfully traversed. However, Applicant, in order to be fully compliant with the restriction requirement, hereby elects group I, claims 1-4, 7-10 and 13-16.

According to the M.P.E.P. § 803, if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it may include claims to independent or distinct inventions.

The Examiner must show that there would be a serious burden if the restriction is not required. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner nowhere contends, let alone demonstrates, that a search of all the pending claims would be a serious burden. Further, at the Examiner's disposal are powerful electronic search engines providing the Examiner with the ability to quickly and easily search all of the claims.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of all pending claims.

Docket No. 87334.5840 Customer No. 30734

CONCLUSION

If, for any reason, the Examiner disagrees, please call the undersigned attorney at 202-861-1703 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding before issuing another action. The undersigned attorney is confident that any issue which might remain can readily be worked out by telephone.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036 with reference to Attorney Docket No. 87334.5840.

Respectfully submitted,

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